EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mark Terry, Attorney of Applicant, reg. No. 47,133 on December 04, 2009.

2. In the claim list filed by Applicant on 09/03/2009, Claims 5-8 and 13-20 remain the same as they have been entered.

Please further amend Claims 1-4 and 9-12 as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) **A method on a computer for providing critical chain-based project management across a plurality of projects, comprising:**

generating a plurality of project plans having a critical chain, each of the plurality of project plans corresponding to one of the plurality of projects, wherein a project comprises at least one task;

generating buffers for each of the plurality of projects, wherein at least one of the buffers generated is placed on the critical chain;

reconciling project resources among the plurality of projects such that priority is given to resource needs of the critical chain executing the plurality of project plans;

continuously displaying status information about the buffers to a user via a graphical user interface, wherein the status information displayed for each project of the plurality of projects includes a buffer consumption percentage and a completion percentage for a current longest chain of tasks in the project, wherein the status information displayed for each project of the plurality of projects further includes at least one of a project buffer consumption percentage and a milestone buffer consumption percentage; and

providing to the user a graphical user interface for managing the buffers across the plurality of projects based on the status information about the buffers; and

continuously modifying task prioritization for any task of the plurality of projects based on the status information about the buffers, wherein task prioritization is calculated across the plurality of projects so as to accommodate the critical chain, and wherein task prioritization for a task is calculated based on a buffer consumption percentage of a longest chain to which the task belongs and based on a chain completion percentage of the longest chain to which the task belongs.

Claims 2-3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Currently amended) **The method of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the task prioritization for a task is further calculated based on relative buffer priority.**

Claim 9. (Currently amended) **A server for providing critical chain-based project management across a plurality of projects, the server comprising a memory storage device including computers instructions for:**

generating a plurality of project plans having a critical chain, each of the plurality of project plans corresponding to one of the plurality of projects, wherein a project comprises at least one task;

generating buffers for each of the plurality of projects, wherein at least one of the buffers generated is placed on the critical chain;

reconciling project resources among the plurality of projects such that priority is given to resource needs of the critical chain executing the plurality of project plans;

continuously displaying status information about the buffers to a user via a graphical user interface, wherein the status information displayed for each project of the plurality of projects includes a buffer consumption percentage and a completion percentage for a current longest chain of tasks in the project, wherein the status information displayed for each project of the plurality of projects further includes at least one of, a project buffer consumption percentage and a milestone buffer consumption percentage; ~~and~~

providing the user with graphical user interface for managing the buffers across the plurality of projects based on the status information about the buffers; and

continuously modifying task prioritization for any task of the plurality of projects based on the status information about the buffers, wherein task prioritization is calculated across the plurality of projects so as to accommodate the critical chain, and

wherein task prioritization for a task is calculated based on a buffer consumption percentage of a longest chain to which the task belongs and based on a chain completion percentage of the longest chain to which the task belongs.

Claims 10-11 (Canceled)

Claim 12. (Currently amended) **The server of claim ~~11~~ 9, wherein each graphical user interface is provided over a network, such as a WAN.**

3. Examiner initiated an interview on 12/03/2009. Examiner submitted claims 3 and 11 in the amendment filed on 09/03/2009 are allowable. Claims 5-8, 13-20 are allowed. In order to put the application in the condition for allowance, it should amend claims 1-4, 9-12. Since the claims 3 and 11 are allowable, Claims 1 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, claims 1 and 9 should be amended to include the limitations of claims 2, 3 and 10-11, respectively. Claims 2-3, and 10-11 should be canceled. Amending claims 9, 12 should modify their dependency.

Applicants' attorney on 12/04/2009 called to accept an Examiner Amendment to put the claims into the condition for allowance.

It should be also noted that Applicants' attorney had initiated an Interview with the Examiner's Supervisor, where that interview summary was not made in the record, but the Interview agenda has been put in the record, dated 05/06/2009.

4. Claims 1, 4, 5-8, 9, 12, 13-20 are allowed.

Prior arts of record do not show

continuously modifying task prioritization for any task of the plurality of projects based on the status information about the buffers, wherein task prioritization is calculated across the plurality of projects so as to accommodate the critical chain, and wherein task prioritization for a task is calculated based on a buffer consumption percentage of a longest chain to which the task belongs and based on a chain completion percentage of the longest chain to which the task belongs.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TED T. VO whose telephone number is (571)272-3706. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM to 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Y. Zhen can be reached on (571) 272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov.

TTV
December 4, 2009

/Ted T. Vo/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2191